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LETTER DATED 17 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose the text of my delegation's statement on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which it would have made in the event of a general debate during the Security Council's consideration of the item presently on its agenda.

I should be grateful if this letter along with its annex is circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa M. H. KAWTHAR
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Statement of Mr. Mustafa M. H. Kawthar, Chargé d'affaires a.i., to the Security Council concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina

15 Safar A.H. 1413/13 August A.D. 1992

I wish, first of all, to express, on behalf of my country's delegation, our appreciation to you and to the other members of the Security Council for giving us the opportunity to participate in these deliberations and to convey to you the congratulations of my country's delegation on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the current month. We are confident that you, by virtue of your wide experience and wisdom, will guide the work of the Council most successfully and competently. I wish also to congratulate your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. José Luis Jesús, Permanent Representative of Cape Verde, on his capable direction of the work of the Council during last July.

The Council is meeting to consider the blatant aggression against the territory, people and existence of a State Member of the United Nations. The reports transmitted by news agencies and the local press and information issued by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Government and Bosnia and Herzegovina reveal to us what is happening in the Republics newly independent of Yugoslavia, particularly the grave violations of frontiers, sovereignty and territorial integrity and the grave breaches of human rights and international law being committed against the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the people of Croatia. Parts of the territories remain under occupation. Military operations, human massacres, the destruction of property, forcible expulsion and ethnic cleansing operations, robbery, arbitrary detention and inhumane maltreatment in prisons and detention camps continue. This aggression continues unchecked, as though we were in the Middle Ages. This is happening before the eyes of the United Nations, and it is a grave responsibility that we place before your esteemed Council so that the Council may assume its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

My country's Government joins with the Governments of the world in rejecting these large-scale violations of the most elementary principles of international law and human interaction and vehemently condemns these barbarous acts and the continuing aggression.

The continuation of this aggression perpetrated against the State and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Serbian or Serbian-supported forces constitutes, in addition to all the violations that we have mentioned, a breach of the United Nations Charter, a challenge to us all, exploitation of the repeated cease-fire agreements concluded through the intermediary of the European Community and the United Nations, with the aim of halting the

military and inhumane acts, and the imposition of a political and military fait accompli that will be rejected by the international community as a whole in order that international legitimacy may be restored to all the territory of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We should warn that, if this reality persists, it will lead to the expansion of the area of grief and suffering and will also constitute a grave precedent to be followed by other adventurers in the future.

The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has appealed to the international community for speedy military assistance in defeating the Serbian forces. We join it in appealing to this Organization and to the international community, now that all peaceful efforts, endeavours and measures have been exhausted, to lift the arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order that it may defend itself - that is the very least that should be done - and to respond to the appeal from a peace-loving, sovereign State Member of the United Nations that is trying to defend its existence. We are now living in a time of serious efforts to implement the United Nations Charter, which is based on respect for the sovereignty of States and the safeguarding of human rights. We call upon the international community from this rostrum to take immediate measures to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in strengthening its defence, halting the aggression and achieving the withdrawal of the Serbian forces and to take the necessary steps to guarantee the security and well-being of the people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to ensure the respect of its sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence and to restore peace and stability to the countries of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. We also call for the adoption of measures to halt the aggression being committed against Croatia and further action plotted in some of the countries of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The aggressor must realize that it will not reap any political or territorial gain from aggression but will be the greatest loser at the end of this adventure.

We hope that you will now take a firm and decisive stand in confronting this grave situation. We reiterate our thanks and appreciation to you, Mr. President, and to the members of the Council and hope that you will adopt the resolution for which the world is waiting and which is called for by the situation, by international legitimacy and by the principles of the protection of humankind.